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Thursday, November 16, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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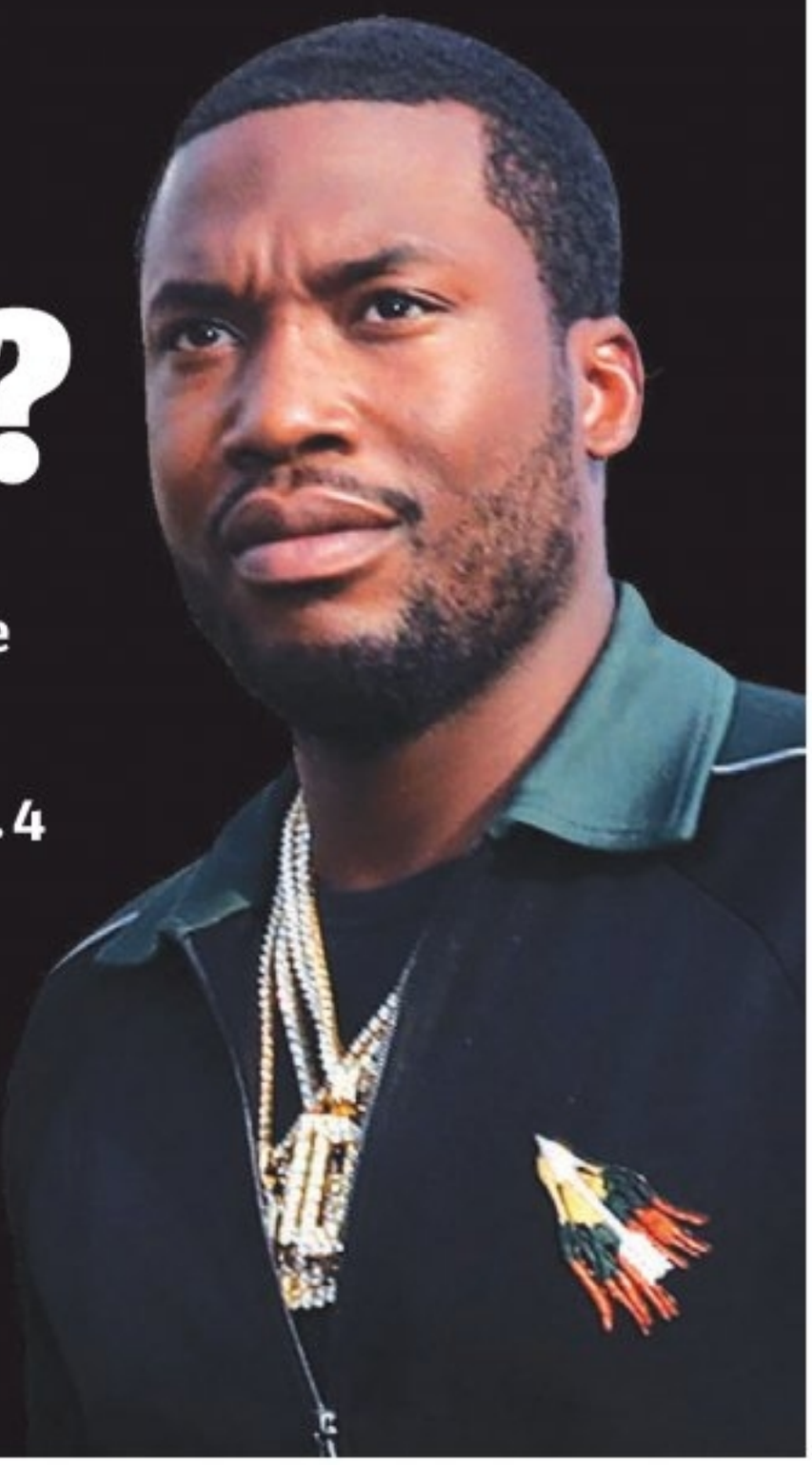

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WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

It was at a bar in Center City one night, when I recognized a lawyer who had represented Meek Mill. I brought up the case and the man's attention turned to Judge Genece Brinkley. What he said next shocked me, but was not wholly unusual given the high emotions seething over the rapper's case, with some saying he was railroaded back into prison, while others say he has only himself to blame. Read the lawyer's comment and all about the case inside and on **metrophilly.us.**

AG TO MEET WITH HOUSE INTELLIGENCE PANEL

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is scheduled to appear behind closed doors for an interview with the U.S. House of Representatives' intelligence committee on Nov. 30, a Department of Justice spokesman said on Wednesday. The panel is among several congressional committees, along with the Department of Justice's special counsel Robert Mueller, investigating alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential campaign and potential collusion by President Donald Trump's campaign. Moscow has denied any meddling. Trump has said there was no collusion.

Jeff Sessions GETTY IMAGES

ZIMBABWE MILITARY SWEEPS TO POWER

Zimbabwe's military seized power on Wednesday saying it was holding President Robert Mugabe and his family safe while targeting "criminals" in the entourage of the man who has ruled the nation since independence 37 years ago. Soldiers seized the state broadcaster and a general appeared on television to announce the takeover. Armored vehicles blocked roads to the main government offices, parliament and the courts in central Harare, while taxis ferried commuters to work nearby. The atmosphere in the capital remained calm. In his first contact with the outside world since the takeover, Mugabe spoke by telephone to the president of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, and told him he was confined to his home but fine, the South African presidency said in a statement.

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GREECE FLOODS

3 A man helps another one to walk in a flooded street following a heavy rainfall in the town of Mandra, Greece, on Wednesday. The death toll from the flash floods that hit the outskirts of Athens is feared to rise in the coming hours after five deaths and seven injuries were confirmed by the government.

UCLA PLAYERS APOLOGIZE AND THANK TRUMP

4 Three UCLA basketball players who had been detained in China on suspicion of shoplifting admitted that they stole items from three stores, and they thanked U.S. President Donald Trump for his help in winning their release. The three players — LiAngelo Ball, Cody Riley and Jalen Hill — remain suspended from the University of California, Los Angeles, basketball team indefinitely, coach Steve Alford told a news conference. All three apologized and thanked Trump for helping secure their release by raising the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit, in their first public comments since being detained. "I take full responsibility for the mistakes I have made, shoplifting," Riley told reporters. "I know that this goes beyond me letting my school down. I let the entire country down."

DEATH TOLL RISES AFTER WIFE'S BODY IS FOUND

5 The death toll in a shooting spree in rural Northern California rose to five after police discovered the body of the gunman's wife hidden in the couple's house, an assistant sheriff said on Wednesday. The body of the wife of the gunman, Kevin Neal, was discovered late on Tuesday, hidden under a hole in the floor, Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston said. Authorities believe Neal, 44, killed his wife on Monday, the day before he went on a rampage at multiple sites around the small community of Rancho Tehama, about 120 miles north of Sacramento, killing four other people. Neal also opened fire at an elementary school before he was slain by police. Johnston said many more people might have been killed if staff at the Rancho Tehama School had not locked Neal out.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2017

Tony's METRO MAGIC

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Philadelphia judge in Meek Mill case being accused of vendetta

Rumors swirl around the judge who sent Meek Mill to prison on a probation violation.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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At a bar in Center City one night, I struck up a conversation with an older man that I recognized as a lawyer who had in the past represented rapper Meek Mill.

I brought up the case and the fact that Meek was at the time back behind bars for a probation violation when the man's attention turned to Judge Genece Brinkley.

"She was a c—," he said. "Put that in your newspaper."

The attorney, a white man, went on to add: "All she wanted to do was punish that black boy for being successful."

While the attorney's insult was extreme and offensive (and is not endorsed by Metro), there has been plenty of agreement with his second point in the anger seething amongst hip-hop fans and on social media, with fans incensed by rapper Meek Mill's recent re-imprisonment.

Meek, 31, born Robert Williams, got a two- to four-year sentence from Brinkley last week for three recent violations of his probation from a 2008 illegal gun possession case. It was the second time she jailed Meek, previously locking him up for five months in 2014 for probation violations.

On social media, some social justice enthusiasts have expressed shock that Brinkley, 61, is an African-American woman who attended Spelman College, an HBCU in Atlanta. Others have said Meek is to blame for his own conduct and questioned the lack of attention to similar cases in the probation system.

But Meek's attorney, Joe Tacopina, is claiming Brinkley had a personal feud with the rapper.

Tacopina is a powerhouse defense attorney from New York, known for his affection for custom suits, luxury watches and cars, his 49-foot yacht and Italian soccer (he co-owns the Venezia FC soccer team).

In court papers, Tacopina argues that Brinkley never forgave Meek for not signing with Charlie Mack's talent management company and for refusing her request to cover a Boyz II Men song.

That request allegedly came when Meek was in court for a February 2016 hearing, at which his then-girlfriend Nicki Minaj testified that she would assist Meek in meeting his probation.

Brinkley invited the hip-hop power couple into chambers for an off-the-record conversation, during which, Tacopina contends, Brinkley made the request.

"Judge Brinkley suggested that Mr. Williams record a version of a song by the popular group Boyz II Men called 'On Bended Knee' and to mention the judge specifically in the song," court papers stated. "Mr. Williams declined to do so, to which (on information and belief) Judge Brinkley replied, 'Suit yourself.'"

Under a hailstorm of nationwide stories, Brinkley is believed to be seeking legal representation.

But regardless of whether or not the motion for recusal is successful, Meek, who was found to have violated his probation for being arrested for riding a dirtbike, testing positive for Percocet and another arrest after a scuffle with over-aggressive fans in the St. Louis airport, can't expect to get out of state prison at Camp Hill anytime soon. The actual appeal process is lengthy.

Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Mike Stack, who chairs the Board of Pardons, said in response to questions about the case of Meek Mill that it would be heard in the order it was submitted.

"Despite the outstanding and aggressive effort by Board of Pardons staff, which is processing applications at a record rate, a backlog of cases remains before the board," Stack said.

Meek Mill and ex-girlfriend Nicki Minaj, who were allegedly invited into a private meeting with the judge handling his case. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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Mayor Jim Kenney has defended Philadelphia's sanctuary city status. GETTY IMAGES

Philly beats Trump in first round of sanctuary city fight

Courts block the president's punishment of sanctuary cities.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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A federal judge ruled the Justice Department could not withhold funds from Philadelphia as ordered by President Trump in retaliation for Mayor Jim Kenney's defiant maintenance of its "sanctuary city" policy.

"Today's ruling benefits every single Philadelphia resident," Mayor Kenney said in a statement. "Our police officers and criminal justice partners will receive much-needed federal funding, and our city will be able to continue practices that keep our communities safe and provide victims and witnesses the security to come forward."

Trump ordered a criminal justice grant under the Byrne JAG (JAG) program for 2017 to be withheld in response to the city's policies "that seek to protect the confidential information of its immigrant population," as Kenney's office put it.

Philly received $1.6 million from the JAG program last year, and over the last 11 years, got an average of $2.2 million per year.

The funding goes to "police overtime and equipment enhancements, upgrades to courtroom technology, training for law enforcement and alternative programming for low-level offenders," according to the city.

"The judge recognized what the city has maintained all along. We are in compliance with federal law," said City Solicitor Sozi Pedro Tulante in a statement, "and attaching immigration-related conditions to a grant having nothing to do with immigration is harmful to Philadelphians' safety."

Trump has harshly criticized sanctuary city policies like those adopted by Philadelphia, under which local law enforcement will not honor federal immigration enforcement orders to detain certain individuals.

Recent nationwide raids that led to the arrests of 107 undocumented immigrants in Philadelphia were widely seen as blatant retaliation for the city's sanctuary city policy. ICE Acting Director Tom Homan said those raids were intentionally "focused on cities and regions where ICE deportation officers are denied access to jails and prisons."

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TRUMP SPEECH

In post-Asia trip speech, Trump makes news ... with water

President Donald Trump went on television on Wednesday to recap his just-completed trip abroad, but it was his pause to refresh that ended up making news.

The day after returning from a 12-day journey to Asia, Trump delivered a more than 20-minute live address to tout his accomplishments on the trip.

Dry mouth got in the way.

Partway through his remarks, the president, who was speaking loudly to the assembled press, paused as cameras rolled to have a drink. Foiled at first when he could not locate any water on his podium, reporters pointed out there was a bottle on a table to his right. He reached for the bottle of water and sipped.

Trump's drink of water lit up social media, evoking comparisons with a televised address given by U.S. Senator Marco Rubio in 2013 during which he grabbed awkwardly for a water bottle.

Trump mocked Rubio during a campaign event last year for his water drinking on live television, calling him a "total choke artist."

Rubio, who ran against Trump for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, had some tongue-in-cheek advice for the president in return.

"Similar, but needs work on his form," Rubio wrote on Twitter on Wednesday. "Has to be done in one single motion & eyes should never leave the camera. But not bad for his 1st time."

Others on social media noted the irony of Trump's choice of an imported refreshment – Fiji Water – during a speech in which one of the main themes was a pledge to reduce U.S. trade deficits with foreign nations.

Trump took another sip from the water bottle before ending his speech. He left, slightly more hydrated, without taking questions from reporters.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the social media reaction to his water drinking.

REUTERS

Alleged Montco fentanyl dealer charged with causing fatal overdose

Another drug dealer has been hit with "drug delivery resulting in death" charges in Montco.

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An alleged heroin dealer is facing charges that he caused the death of a 39-year-old Plymouth man.

Adam Paravati, 37, of Norristown, is charged with drug delivery resulting in death for allegedly selling "fentanyl analogs," combos of drugs including fentanyl but sold as heroin, to Gregory Poper, who OD'd in September.

"Gregory Poper died from being poisoned," Montco DA Kevin Steele said in a statement. "Dealers delivering poison right to the doors of Montgomery County residents, preying upon those suffering from the disease of addiction, should think twice about coming over our borders."

Poper was found deceased in a residence on Red Rowan Lane on Sept. 18 along with 11 blue paper bags, which had reportedly contained white powder.

Police say based on text messages they found that Paravati had allegedly texted with Poper and agreed to pick up cash from his vehicle, which was parked out front in the driveway, and leave the drugs inside.

"Take it easy on that, it's good," Paravati allegedly warned Poper about the drugs in a text after the sale, a sign, prosecutors said, that he knew he sold a "more potent substance" than regular heroin.

Using the dead man's phone, law enforcement quickly set up a sting to snare the dealer who sold the victim the fatal dose.

"Detectives arranged for Paravati to deliver more drugs to Mr. Poper by placing them in his vehicle," the Montco DA's office said in a statement.

When Paravati arrived, he was arrested, allegedly in possession of 14 blue paper bags. They later tested positive for fentanyl and other drugs.

Poper's OD was caused by a combination of fentanyl, 3-methylfananyl, heroin, amphetamine and methadone, the coroner found.

Paravati's arrest marked the eighth arrest so far in 2017 on a drug delivery resulting in death charge in Montco.

"More arrests are in the works," Steele said in his statement.

Paravati's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 30.

Adam Paravati has been charged in connection to a fatal overdose. PROVIDED

TAXES

Two Senate Republicans critical of party's tax plan

A Senate Republican tax plan that would repeal the Obamacare mandate and give permanent tax cuts only to U.S. corporations drew fire from two Republican lawmakers on Wednesday in what could be a sign of trouble for the measure.

Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin said he would not support the current Senator proposal, or a separate tax bill being debated in the House of Representatives, because he believes they unfairly benefit corporations over other kinds of enterprises, including small businesses.

Sen. Susan Collins, one of three Republicans who opposed a Republican Obamacare repeal effort earlier this year, warned that some middle-income taxpayers could see tax cuts wiped out by higher health insurance premiums if the repeal of the Affordable Care Act's mandate goes through.

Their views could signal problems for Senate Republicans, who want to pass tax legislation by December but can afford to lose no more than two votes from their ranks because they have only a 52-48 majority in the Senate.

"Neither the House nor Senate bill provide fair treatment, so I do not support either in their current version," Johnson said in a statement. REUTERS

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Meet the people behind the South Philly version of 'Ghostbusters'

They shed light on what it's really like to make films in Philadelphia.

MADELINE PRESLAND
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Philly has always been an off-the-radar gem for filmmakers. But what is it like to be a filmmaker or actor who lives in Philly full-time?

Indie horror film "American Exorcist," shot in the former Philadelphia Inquirer building at 400 N. Broad St., embodies a certain spirit of the city. Metro was able to speak to the film's director, Tony Trov, and actress Falon Joslyn.

What is this movie about?

Tony Trov: A paranormal investigator finds herself trapped in a haunted high-rise on Christmas Eve. We really wanted to make an exorcism film with a Philadelphia flair, so we met with Philadelphia locations manager Chris Gormley and he suggested shooting in a building that is scheduled to be demolished. We ended up doing exactly that, and it really opened a lot of creative opportunities for our crew. We think there's something truly spooky about Christmas. [Co-director Johnny Zito] and I really enjoyed writing a story about an exorcism on a holy holiday.

What are some changes you've seen about filmmaking here?

Tony Trov: Sadly our city can't hold enough work in the film industry to keeping crew members from moving to more active cities like Atlanta. I've worked here as a local for years and have seen so many friends move away. It's sad to see creative communities grow and then fall apart. I'm always surprised there aren't more films shooting here. It's such a beautiful city and so many good things to eat. What else could you want?

Falon Joslyn shoots a special FX sequence. PROVIDED

What is your character like?

Falon Joslyn: She's paranormal investigator who is dealing with grief from a past incident. It's changed who she is as a person, makes her a bit more cynical and hard. She walks into this job on Christmas Eve, kind of a bit of a skeptic, and it slowly progresses she's more of a believer as she gets more trapped. I'm really proud of this character because she kicks her own butt and makes hard decisions. Being a woman of color as a lead, it's always gratifying to play a character like this and have this opportunity.

What was it like to shoot in the former Inquirer building?

Falon Joslyn: The freedom was endless. When you're shooting on locations like an occupied building or someone's home, you have to lay down paper and specific walkways. And it's a horror movie, so you're dealing with fake blood spatters and holes in the wall. There's a lot of things that can go wrong in terms of damaging a property or nice set. For example, I fall out of a ceiling, crawl in the ceiling and put holes in the walls. Also, we had a blood cannon that had to be tested somewhere.

What draws you to a movie that really blends two genres?

Falon Joslyn: We all are big fans of the horror Christmas crossover. One of my favorites is "Krampus" and "Gremlins." Anything that has to do with the holidays that doesn't make it a holiday movie. You can work with fun vibrant colors, and it really sets the tone. Mostly becuase you're making something that is supposed to be really warm and comforting very horrifying.

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Trump's proposed border wall has been a major source of controversy. GETTY IMAGES

Cards Against Humanity buys land near border so Trump can't build wall

Cards Against Humanity, a raunchy adult card game, purchased land on the United States-Mexico border in an attempt to thwart President Trump's plans to build his border protection wall.

As part of a special holiday promotion called Cards Against Humanity Saves America, the company behind the insanely popular "party game for horrible people" purchased a plot of vacant land on the border of the U.S. and Mexico border, hoping to make it difficult for Trump to construct a border wall.

The company hired a law firm specializing in eminent domain so it can "make it as time-consuming and as expensive as possible for the wall to get built," according to the promotion's website.

"Donald Trump is a preposterous golem who is afraid of Mexicans. He is so afraid that he wants to build a $20 billion wall that everyone knows will accomplish nothing," the company's website stated.

According to Cards Against Humanity, it's easy to get involved. If you give the company $15, you will receive "six America-saving surprises" from it in December. The first will include a map of the land, a certificate of promise to fight against the wall and "a few other surprises."

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Women share 'Pillowtalk' as post-MeToo re-empowerment

In the wake of sexual-misconduct allegations against men in powerful positions, one sex-toy company wants to put control back in female hands.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA
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Sex is fun. It should be fun. But it seems everywhere we turn, we're met with more stories of people who have been sexually harassed or assaulted by men in power. Stories of the vulnerable and victimized shared with the hashtags #MeToo or #MeAt14 have overtaken social media. But one sex-toy company wants to put power back in the hands of those who deserve it.

Emotional and physical intimacy open us up to judgment by others or even by ourselves, but let's love ourselves, care for one another, take charge of our bodies and with whom we share them. Enter Dame Products' "Pillowtalk" campaign.

"The Pillowtalk Project was inspired by realizing that the only way we can develop quality toys for sex is to truly listen to peoples' emotional and physiological needs," Dame CEO Alex Fine told us.

Pillow talk is chit-chat you make with a special someone after intimacy. Whether you are holding each other and whispering sweet nothings or sharing the highlights of your day, it's "a wonderful example of a time at which humans feel particularly comfortable being vulnerable and sharing more personal details that can ultimately lead to some pretty substantial growth — both personally and as couples," Fine added.

Dame Products founders Alex Fine (left) and Janet Lieberman (right) want to make the world a happier place. PROVIDED BY DAME

Dame is inviting people to check out its interactive platform on Thursday and share their favorite pillow-talk moment. The campaign launches at 9 a.m. in conjunction with Dame's new product, Eva II.

"We want to create a safe space for individuals to share intimate narratives," Fine said. "To help us all learn from each other's experience, to help us be better partners, better lovers and ultimately happier humans."

Before asking you to show yours, we thought it only fair that Fine and Dame Chief Technology Officer Janet Lieberman show you theirs!

So, ladies, what's your favorite thing that has been said to you in an intimate moment?

Fine: I think of myself as an extrovert, but I'd prefer to keep my most powerful stories as anonymous posts on the platform. That said, one that I feel comfortable sharing in a public forum is something that my partner said to me after sex once. He said "You smell real." We had worked up a bit of a sweat during sex, and I smelled "real," and he was into it. It was an empowering moment for me. I felt loved.

Lieberman: In college, I'd agreed to take part in a charity calendar. I was feeling a little nervous — I liked my body, but I've always been curvy, which comes with stretch marks and cellulite. The night before my shoot, the guy I'd just started seeing said, "You should thank God every day for your breasts." It was completely unprompted and so random and over the top, I had to laugh. But he insisted he was completely serious. I went into the next day's shoot feeling completely confident that there was nothing on me to be ashamed of.

"These pillow talk moments are moments where we cultivate our compassion for one another — which is something we really need now more than ever," Fine continued. "I believe we need to take a light and shine it on things that happen in the dark … show what positive intimacy looks like."

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The Mooch wants to publish a book about his 10-day White House tenure

Anthony "The Mooch" Scaramucci wants to sell a book about his 10-day career in politics.

The former White House communications director — who was fired by incoming chief of staff John Kelly after giving an extremely indiscreet interview to The New Yorker — has been taking meetings with potential publishers, Page Six reports. Scaramucci is represented by Trident Media Group, whose clients include Jon Stewart, Paris Hilton and Deepak Chopra.

Scaramucci, a financier whose other books include "Hopping Over the Rabbit Hole" and "The Little Book of Hedge Funds," was hired by President Trump to take over the White House press operation in July, over the objections of then-Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and then-press secretary Sean Spicer.

He lost his job just 10 days into the gig.

Anthony "The Mooch" Scaramucci is shopping around a book deal about his White House stint. GETTY IMAGES

Let's save The Mooch the trouble of writing a book, and take a look back at his vibrant White House career.

Ryan Lizza of The New Yorker said Scaramucci told him he'd fire the entire communications staff if Lizza didn't tell him who leaked information about a White House dinner. Scaramucci then called Priebus a "paranoid schizophrenic, a paranoiac" and said he was about to be fired, and claimed he had taken his job with a different motivation than presidential adviser Steve Bannon.

"I'm not Steve Bannon, I'm not trying to suck my own c–k," he said.

Scaramucci ended the interview by saying, "Yeah, let me go, though, because I've gotta start tweeting some shit to make this guy crazy." Then, over Twitter, Scaramucci seemed to accuse Priebus of leaking information about him. "In light of the leak of my financial info which is a felony. I will be contacting @FBI and the @TheJusticeDept #swamp @Reince45," he tweeted.

Scaramucci's press rainbow tour continued — briefly. "There are people inside the administration that think it is their job to save America from this president," he told CNN's "New Day" on July 27. "OK, that is not their job. Their job is to inject this president into America."

Four days later, Trump fired him. MICHAEL MARTIN

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Advertisement

$2 Sex Pill From China Does What $50 Sex Pills In The U.S. Cannot

Approved by top doctors; proven in 13 U.S. clinical trials to turbo charge libido levels, trigger harder, longer lasting erections and give men "mind blowing" orgasms

By J. Whitsed
National Media Syndicate

NMS—A pill that restores a man's sex drive and triggers strong, long lasting erections without side effects has been used in China for 63 years. It is now available in the United States.

This amazing pill contains ingredients that not only resolve sexual health problems in men, but also boost lost testosterone levels in the body.

It also cuts your sex pill costs up to 82% less than using medications like Viagra.

An improved version of this pill is now being offered in the United States by the American Institute of Longevity under the brand name Viotren.

Viotren restores male libido levels. It relieves performance anxiety. It triggers powerful erections that are easier and faster to achieve, too. It even contains an ingredient that "switches off" the chemical in a man's body that causes his erections to go soft.

Viotren is also safe and good for your overall health. It does not cause harmful side effects associated with Viagra, Levitra, and Cialis.

Triggers a massive release of testosterone in the body

Viotren contains ingredients that trigger a massive release of testosterone in the body. As a result, your sex drive is quickly restored. So is your ability to get and maintain an erection.

Thirteen clinical studies have now been conducted on Viotren's active ingredient here in the U.S. The results show men report being more easily aroused. They report harder, longer lasting erections, too. They also report being more passionate during love making. The pill even improves muscle strength, energy levels, and physical stamina.

Kiernan Mills, Director of the American Institute of Longevity said, "The origin of Viotren is in ancient Oriental medicine. Scientists now know that there are many remedies from Oriental medicine that are proving very effective in clinical studies."

This particular Oriental remedy was brought to market commercially by a Chinese pharmaceutical company in 1953. But they took it a step further. They took the ingredients in the remedy that triggered the amazing sexual benefits in men and they put them into a pill.

When the pill absorbs into the body, the ingredients are released into the blood where they begin restoring testosterone and libido levels.

The American Institute of Longevity has developed an improved pill which includes more potent and faster absorbing forms of each ingredient. The former pill, while incredibly effective, was slower to work in the body.

Stronger, Longer Lasting Erections In 72-Hours

There are many benefits to a sex pill that restores testosterone levels.

First of all, the sexual improvements are felt in days. You don't have to wait weeks or months. Improvements in your sex drive and ability to get and maintain an erection start within the first 72-hours.

Going directly to the source of male sexual problems — i.e., low testosterone — has this major health benefit: you don't have to take risky drugs that cause harmful side effects anymore. By restoring lost testosterone levels, you simply "reset" your sex drive to the way it used to be when you were a younger man.

New Sex Pill: Top doctors are now recommending new Viotren to men; 13 clinical studies show active ingredient boosts sexual desire; triggers stronger longer-lasting erections.

Not only is Viotren safe to use, but, it also helps to improve blood circulation throughout the body. This further improves your ability to get an erection and maintain it for the entire duration of sex.

What Doctors Are Saying

"Many Viotren users note an increased sense of well-being, vitality, and sexual performance in the first 30 days," said Dr. Holly Lucille, who has appeared on award winning T.V. shows like The Doctors, and PBS's Healing Quest.

"I recommend Viotren to men who find it difficult to become aroused. It does wonders for your sexual appetite. Your sexual sensitivity. Even for your staying power and stamina," said Dr. Vincent Leaper, M.D.

"Viotren is a good choice for men who feel they have passed their peak. The results of using this pill can be an in- crease in energy levels, vigor, and a decrease in depressive mood," said Dr. Decker Weiss, Integrative Cardiologist and Professional Committee Member of the America Heart Association.

Double Money Back Guarantee

In addition, the makers of Viotren claim this pill works for almost every man. And so, they are willing to put their money where their mouth is to prove it.

"If men use Viotren exactly as directed, they will see a huge spike in testosterone… a massive increase in sexual desire… a boost in bedroom performance… and stronger, longer lasting erections that are faster and easier to achieve," said Mills.

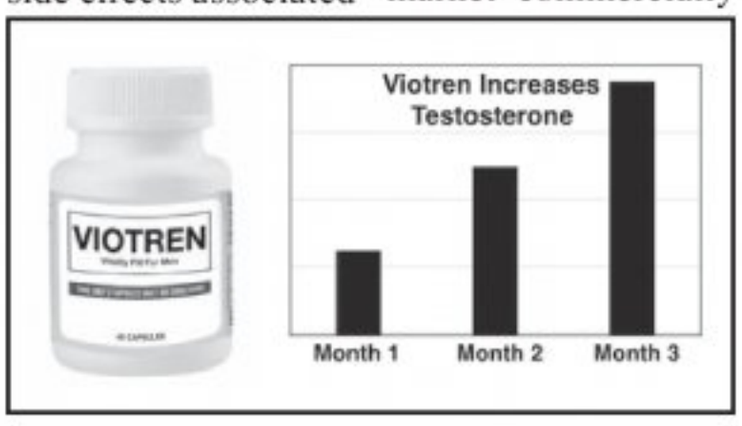
"And if for any reason that does not happen, which is highly unlikely, we'll go ahead and issue each man a double your money back refund. We can only offer a guarantee like this because we know Viotren works and men love it," he added.

How To Get Viotren

This is the official nationwide release of Viotren in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to any man who calls within the next 48-hours.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the order hotline will be open for 48-hours. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE **1-888-740-5062** and provide the operator with the special discount approval code: BRF179. The company will do the rest.

Important: Due to Viotren's recent media exposure on CBS, CNN, MSNBC, and FOX News, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48 hour deadline may be forced to pay full price for Viotren.



These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. All doctors mentioned are remunerated for their services. All clinical studies on Viotren's active ingredient were independently conducted and were not sponsored by the American Institute of Longevity.

Why aren't African-American actors more popular overseas?

Most Popular U.S. Actor in China, 2017. OPEN ROAD FILMS

Chadwick Boseman speaks out upon winning an award in China.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroPhilly
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

You know him from "Black Panther," "Draft Day," "Captain America: Civil War" and "Marshall" (in which he played the title role of Thurgood Marshall), but audiences abroad are also appreciating the genius of Chadwick Boseman. He recently picked up the Most Popular U.S. Actor in China award at the 13th Annual Chinese American Film Festival, and during his acceptance speech he pointed out that African-American actors are conditioned to only receiving success domestically.

"I'd like to give honor to God, my ancestors, my parents — who I come from," said Boseman. "Thank you to the Chinese American Film Festival for this award, which I am very surprised by. As African-American actors we are told that our popularity and our movies don't travel overseas. So I cherish this award immensely."

Boseman's success debunks the Hollywood myth, especially considering recent big-screen juggernauts likes "Straight Outta Compton," "Hidden Figures" and "Moonlight." The fact they achieved so much at international box offices without big-name actors, while also distinctively reflecting African-American lives, highlights that poor marketing has been to blame, and that top-notch storytelling always wins.

As recently as March 2017, the Los Angeles Times explained that actors like Samuel L. Jackson, Morgan Freeman, Will Smith and Denzel Washington had "transcended race" when their movies topped the charts in foreign markets. Thankfully, that's no longer the case.

The fact that Chadwick Boseman joins past winners Gal Gadot (2016's Most Popular U.S. Actress — despite being Israeli), Tyrese Gibson (2016's Most Popular U.S. Actor) and Michelle Rodriguez (2015's Most Popular U.S. Actress) in collecting this accolade emphatically underlines that actors of color are appreciated just as much (if not more) by audiences abroad as they are at home.

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Christopher Plummer on replacing Kevin Spacey ... in just two weeks

The 87-year-old re-shoots "All the Money in the World" scenes faster than you pay your cable bill.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroNewYork
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

Spacey's out. Plummer's in ... "All the Money in the World." The magic of editing! GETTY IMAGES

Academy Award winner Christopher Plummer is keen to promote his latest film, "The Man Who Invented Christmas," which tells the origin story of "A Christmas Carol" (in cinemas this Thanksgiving), but has been dogged with questions about his impromptu performance in "All the Money in the World."

Kevin Spacey originally played J. Paul Getty, the richest man in the world, in the December release, but as we all know now he's persona non grata on screens big and small. As such, Plummer stepped in and took over, and you'll see him rather than Spacey appearing alongside Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams in the big- budget ransom thriller.

"It's going to be tough, but exciting," says Plummer. "But worth giving it a go. I don't have a day off. I can't remember how many scenes I have at the moment. It seems endless. About nine to 10."

Not only will Plummer be performing as understudy in London and Rome this month, Williams and Wahlberg have to reshoot as well. "Yes, they stayed to do it all over again, which is remarkable," Plummer shares. "I don't know Mark or Michelle, but I'll meet them on the set!"

Plummer doesn't sound too concerned about the tight time frame and turn around, though, insisting, "I'm used to big roles and lots of words. I'm just trying to be as good as I can be in the part. It fascinates me because it's very clear and very well written."

Plummer's Scrooge. BLEECKER STREET MEDIA

Plummer hasn't spoken to Spacey about taking the part, though he does say the situation is "sad."

"I think it was very sad what happened to him," Plummer says. "Kevin is such a talented, terrifically gifted actor, it was just so sad, and it's such a shame. And that's all I can say."

We'll get to see what Plummer can do with the part when "All The Money In The World" is released next month, while "The Man Who Invented Christmas" will start to sprinkle festive joy in time for Turkey Day.

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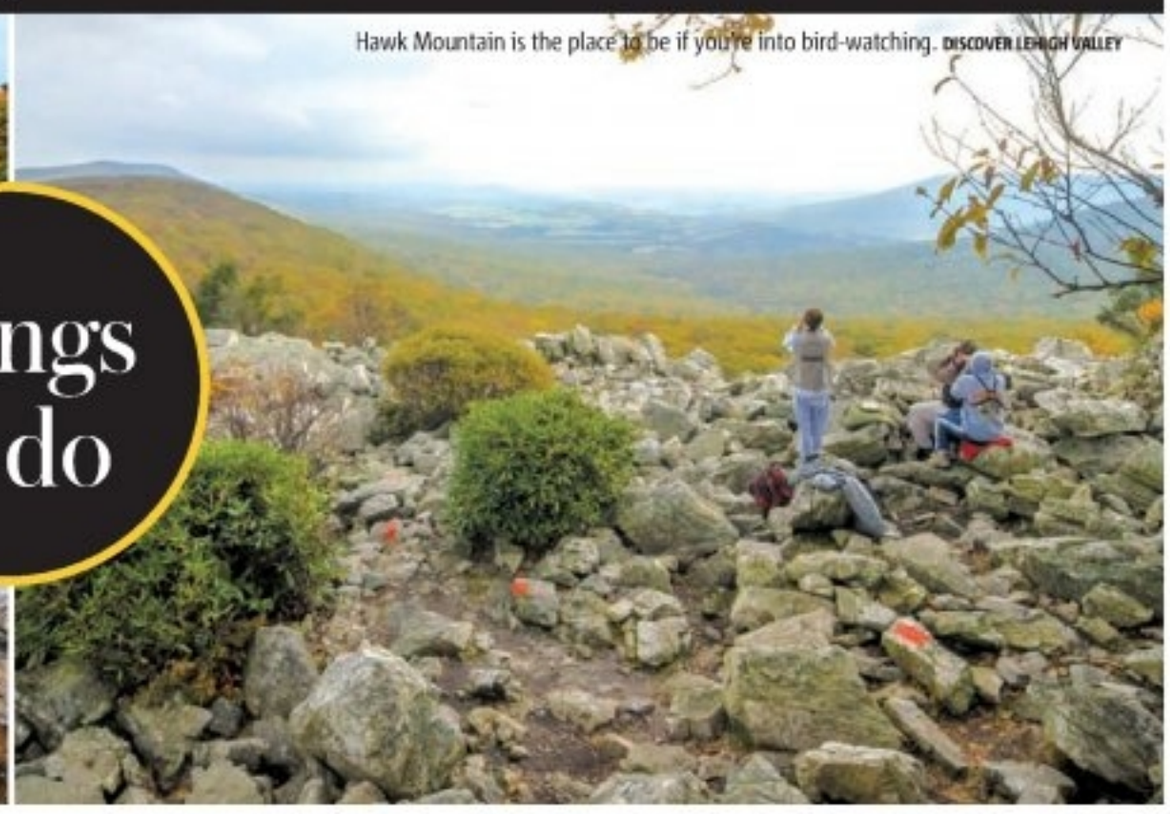
Take in the views at Lehigh Gorge State Park. JERRY REARDON


Hawk Mountain is the place to be if you're into bird-watching. DISCOVER LEHIGH VALLEY

things to do

Where to go hiking near Philadelphia

Escape the city and become one with nature.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

National Hiking Day is this Friday and there's no better way to celebrate than by escaping the confines of the concrete jungle and exploring the great outdoors in the Philadelphia region. Whether you're hoping to get a great workout, soothe your soul or simply see some waterfalls, there are hiking options for you that aren't too far outside of the city. Here are some of our favorite places to go hiking near Philadelphia.

Ricketts Glen State Park
This park in Benton is comprised of 13,050 acres and spreads across three counties. The Falls Trail System is great for hiking and as the name would suggest, contains a ton of waterfalls to see — 22 in total. The largest of those is Ganoga Falls, which is 94 feet tall. The website advises that sandals are prohibited when hiking this trail, so make sure you're prepared with proper footwear.
695 State Route 487
Benton

Lehigh Gorge State Park
Lehigh Gorge State Park is "gorgeous." With 6,107 acres and 20 miles of trails (that follow abandoned railroad tracks by the river), you'll be able to hike as well as take beautiful photography. If you feel like biking, the trail is closed to motor vehicles, so that could be fun to add onto your day's agenda as well. Need a break? Stop and have a picnic at Buttermilk Falls. The name alone is enough to induce peaceful vibes.
3613 State Route 534
White Haven

Worthington State Forest
If you're looking to really elevate your Instagram feed, take a hike on the Red Dot Trail in Worthington State Forest. At 1.2 miles in length, it leads to an incredible view of the Delaware Water Gap from Mount Tammany. You'll pay a price for the pretty picture, however: The National Park Service describes it as a "difficult" trail and the most challenging in the park. Better eat your Wheaties before attempting this!
Old Mine Rd.
Columbia, New Jersey

Jacobsburg State Park contains an Old Growth forest. DISCOVER LEHIGH VALLEY

Hawk Mountain
Love bird watching? Then you should definitely plan a hike at Hawk Mountain. This 2,600-acre sanctuary features 8 miles of trail, plenty of beautiful scenery and is the world's first refuge for birds of prey. The most popular trail is the Lookout Trail, which comes highly recommended if you are new to hiking. A mile in length, the trail will eventually lead you to North Lookout, which is super-popular with bird watchers around the world.
1700 Hawk Mountain Rd.
Kempton

Jacobsburg State Park
Hiking with kids? Jacobsburg State Park has the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, which is a great way to introduce children to the joys of nature and hiking. The park itself comprises 1,168 acres and even is home to Henrys Woods, one of the remaining Old Growth forests in Pennsylvania.
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MUSIC

Philly Pops

The Philly Pops, alongside rising young star Michael Cavanaugh, perform the best of Elton John—yes, including "Candle in the Wind." It's a straightforward, pure-fun showcase of local and Broadway talent channeling the energy of the British songbird and pianist.
Nov. 10 through Nov. 12, 8 p.m. or 3 p.m.
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 300 S. Broad St., $35

Modern English

The long-running British rock band, formed in 1979 as a trio of vocals, bass and guitar, is known for the songs "I Melt with You" and "Ink and Paper." The original group is touring the U.S. in support of 2017 album "Take Me to the Trees."
Nov. 12, 9 p.m.
Johnny Brenda's
1201 Frankford Ave.
johnnybrendas.com, $20

FOOD & DRINK

SkyLodge

SkyGarten's 51-stories-up beer garden transforms into a winter retreat in the clouds for the holiday season, featuring a bearskin rug, a projected fireplace and all sorts of other winter-feels décor. On the cocktail menu: spiked hot chocolate, peppermint schnapps, Baileys Irish Cream-spiked coffees and a selection of chocolates.[tab]
Nov. 10 and Nov. 11, 5 p.m.
SkyGarten
1717 Arch St., $5

HOLIDAYS

PROVIDED}

Franklin Square Holiday Festival

Franklin Square's Holiday Festival returns with fire pits, a beer garden and new s'mores and gourmet hot chocolate stations from Ben's Sweets & Treats. There's also a heated tent and a light show—free—courtesy of PECO, presenting 50,000 lights that sparkle in the late-autumn air.
Nov. 9 through Dec. 31, 4 p.m. Franklin Square, 200 N. Sixth St., historicphiladelphia.org Free

Autumn Wine Walk

Continuing its series of wine-pairing events, Chaddsford Winery hosts an autumn-themed station-to-station wine tasting, with a total of five to explore. Highlights among the bunch: Station Five with its spiced red wine and chocolate-dipped vanilla cream puffs, as well as Station Three with cinnamon sweet potato puffs and a 2015 Proprietors Reserve Red.
Nov. 11, 1 p.m.
Chaddsford Winery
632 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford
chaddsford.com, $20

Taproom on 19th Anniversary Party

On its four-year anniversary, Taproom on 19th celebrates the occasion with an all-day happy hour, an anniversary burger—a double burger stuffed with mozzarella and topped with bacon and bacon jam—and live music from Hildy and the Peptones. 31st and Wharton craft beer wholesaler hosts a tap takeover.
Nov. 11, 1 p.m.
Taproom on 19th
2400 S. 19th St.
taproomon19th.com
Pay as you go

Manayunk Cocktail Week

Swing through Manayunk's bars and restaurants for a taste of all the cocktail pairings, parties and happy hours you can handle—with a Stoli Vodka event at midnight Friday night at Mad River and a Bloody Mary contest at Sona Pub & Kitchen on Sunday, among other boozy events.
Through Nov. 12
Main Street, Manayunk
Pay as you go

THEATER

Blood Wedding and Post-Show Chat

Based on the Spanish original, "Blood Wedding," headed by Hungarian director and choreographer Csaba Horvath, is the story of a young bride who receives a visit from a former lover on her wedding day—sparking a family feud when they run away together. Productions run through Nov. 19, but stop by this Thursday for a special behind-the-scenes chat with the artistic team.
Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.
The Wilma Theater
265 S. Broad St.
wilmatheater.org, $30

This is Not Normal/ The End of Journalism

New York storyteller Mike Daisey brings two 2016 Election-themed monologues to Center City that will, for the politically fatigued among us, serve as a primal scream—tackling these bizarre times with wit and brutal truths. "The End of Journalism" covers the rise of FOX News and the impact of social media on politics and culture.
Nov. 9 through Nov. 11
Suzanne Roberts Theatre
480 S. Broad St.
philadelphiatheatrecompany.org, $25

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First Person Arts Grand Slam

Winners of previous StorySlam sessions compete in this free-for-all to claim bragging rights as "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia"—and the $250 cash prize, to be sure. Hosted by Chris Lundy and featuring a panel of recognizable judges in the scene, this is a bold and sometimes outrageous collection of personal stories.
Nov. 11, 8 p.m.
FringeArts
140 N. Christopher Columbus Blvd. firstpersonarts.org, $20

LGBT

LGBT Mixer

In a neighborhood overwhelmed with drag performances and dance parties, a simple mix-and-mingle event with LGBT creatives, upstairs at the Gayborhood's go-to piano bar, starts to look awfully appealing. Entry includes a drink ticket, light bites and a $2 discount on all additional drink purchases.
Nov. 9, 5 p.m.
Tavern on Camac
243 S. Camac St.
Philadelphia.aiga.org

****ing Men

Joe DiPitero presents a cheeky but heartfelt play about hook-up culture and what sex means to a group of 10 different men. Friday's showing features a one-hour pre-show cabaret.
Nov. 9 through Nov. 11, 8 p.m.
Ruba Club
416 Green St.
voiceofequality.com, $10

ART

CraftNow's Fluid Boundaries

This annual symposium is a gold-mine opportunity for artists to learn, with a four-hour stretch of talks and Q&As that fit the "Fluid Boundaries" theme, plus a keynote speech from Charles Bresler, curator of the Renwick Gallery. Programming includes contributions from the Fabric Workshop + Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Center for Art in Wood and other local galleries and museums.
Nov. 10, 12 p.m.
Graham Auditorium, Moore College of Art & Design
1916 Race St.
moore.edu
Free

COMEDY

Brian Posehn

If not from his frequent stand-up tours, comedy followers may recognize Posehn from a smattering of shows and films: Through the years he's co-starred in "The Five-Year Engagement," has appeared on "Seinfeld" and "The Big Bang Theory" and starred in three seasons of Comedy Central's "The Sarah Silverman Program." Topics from his shows range from smoking weed to nerd jokes.
Nov. 9 through Nov. 11, 8 p.m.
Helium Comedy Club
2031 Sansom St.
brianposehn.com, $20

MUSEUMS

Science Museum Day

Free with admission
The Franklin Institute celebrates International Science Center and Science Museum Day with a mammoth lineup of free all-day programming, starting with a hands-on workshop that demonstrates how Philadelphians can prepare for a changing climate, and ends with a design workshop that has guests constructing their own buildings. Other daytime events include a 3-D printing showcase and an interactive show about staying cool during Philly's increasingly hot summers.
Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m.
The Franklin Institute
222 N. 20th St., fi.edu
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For nearly 60 years Central Florida has been the go-to destination for speed freaks and geeks the world over, and for very good reason.

Home to the Daytona International Speedway, the worlds of NASCAR and motorcycle racing revolve around (and around, and around) this particular track.

Or tracks, rather — there's both a 2.5-mile stretch for NASCAR and a 3.56-mile course for sports cars and motorcycles, known for their 31-degree terrifying turns.

Known to who? Just about everyone. The Daytona 500, the most prestigious race in American automotive sporting, consistently sells out every single one of the 101,500 stadium seats (not counting fans who camp infield), but the track is used for events year-round.

What's going on at the Speedway when a big race isn't being beamed into your favorite bar or onto your screens at home? We took a look around to find out why it's worth an in-person visit even when the season is set to "park."

Motorsports Hall of Fame

Previously located in Michigan, the Motorsports Hall of Fame did the long-distance drive to Daytona and is now located at the Speedway. Check out their exhibits on stock cars, sports cars, open-wheel, motorcycles and more, and take selfies next to the bronze busts of your favorite drivers (currently there are 230 in the Hall of Fame).

Speedway VIPs

Ride-or-die fans will flip for the VIP Speedway tour ($52 per adult), which brings you behind the scenes of the world's only motorsports stadium.

Over the course of three hours you're able to inspect the place with the precision of a pit boss and be afforded unprecedented access (and views — save space on your phone for photos from the Houston Lawing Press Box). Your guide will introduce you to some of the sport's most important artifacts, and no doubt share a few inside baseball stories from the lot. Casual fans can top up the tank with an abridged 90-minute tour ($25 per adult), which takes in many of the Speedway's highlights and still affords the awesome views that will light up your Instagram likes.

For more info, check out daytonainternationalspeedway.com.

Where to shop, sip and stay

At the end of this year the highly anticipated ONE DAYTONA will be cutting all sorts of ribbons as it opens doors to boutique hotels, shopping, entertainment options and more … just across the street from the Speedway. Think of it as your official pit when off course.

When it comes time to book accommodation at ONE DAYTONA, there's "The Daytona" (opening in early 2018) which promises 145 upscale rooms designed "with motorsports in mind," 105 rooms at the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, and even condos if you decide you can't bear to live more than a mile from the heady exhaust fumes of the track. *For more information, cruise control into onedaytona.com*

Getting there

It's surprisingly easy to get to Daytona Beach International Airport from the Northeast: New Yorkers have access to direct flights, and just one connection separates Boston and Philadelphia from the hallowed asphalt. If you're adding a visit to Orlando to your itinerary, direct flights await from virtually anywhere. 0 to 575mph in no time.

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Strange but *real* holidays

These celebrations around the world have some pretty interesting rituals.

Fodor's Travel

The Battle of the Oranges is not for the faint of heart. GETTY IMAGES

People love to make up holidays, and apparently, this is just a thing anyone can do now, because: the internet. In fact, if you just do a basic Google search for "weird holidays," you will find that it is a holiday every day of the year.

However, unlike holidays created to justify eating a lot of doughnuts, the following holidays are actually real and celebrated in big and/or somewhat outlandish ways.

Up Helly Aa

Up Helly Aa marks the end of the yule season in Shetland, Scotland, and is celebrated with a ton of fire festivals that honestly make it seem like you are in literal hell, which isn't surprising as the word "hell" is right there in the title. An honorary Guizer Jarl is elected as the festival's leader, and he leads his Jarl Squad of supporters around, as along with many other additional squads (guizers). The festival involves a lot of marching with torches which are eventually thrown into a gigantic replica Viking ship, which then of course goes up in flames.

Night of the Radishes

An annual radish-carving festival is held in Oaxaca, Mexico on Dec. 23, when everyone carves a bunch of radishes into little radish people to create scenes reenacting the birth of Jesus. This began as a way that farmers just tried to get people to buy their produce at farmers markets because they'd be more eye-catching to customers, who'd be like, "Oh my, that vegetable looks just like Jesus, I should buy that one and not a regular radish," but now it's just a big event where money is awarded to whoever can carve the best biblical radish people.

Bean Throwing Day

Bean Throwing Day is a holiday in Japan where everybody throws beans everywhere in their houses and temples to scare away evil spirits on the first day of spring. Beans are, apparently, frightening to ghosts. Now you know.

Melon Day

Melon Day is celebrated in Turkmenistan on Aug. 12 and honors Turkmenbashi melons. There are a bunch of melon-themed festivities, because apparently the best melons in the world come from Turkmenistan and everyone loves melons there.

The Battle of the Oranges

This Italian holiday takes place at a carnival where a bunch of people dress in peculiar outfits and throw oranges at each other — presumably because Spain already claimed tomatoes. So, the answer, of course, is to stuff oranges down their shirts (seriously), then throw them at each other (possibly injuring everyone involved), as well as, of course, wasting the heck out of a ton of oranges. It honors an event that happened in Iverea is 1194, when villagers got real mad at a villainous Italian Count and threw rocks at him.

Tinku "Punch Your Neighbor" Festival

On this Bolivian holiday, a festival is held where everyone just beats the stuffing out of each other all day. The Tinku Festival is held in the city of Macha each May, and is based on an old religious belief that in order to have a good harvest, blood must be shed to the earth goddess Pachamama. People have actually died during this thing, however, so now it is (slightly) policed so that fights are stopped after first blood is shed. So, to recap, at least one person has to get the living crap kicked out of them to the point of actual bleeding, and then everyone's like, "Cool, great job guys, let's have a great harvest."

Silent Day

Indonesia's Nyepi Day (Silent Day) happens around mid-March in Bali to celebrate the new year. Everybody has to stay completely quiet all day — you are not allowed to speak for any reason. Also, you're not allowed to eat or work or do much of anything at all, really. You're just supposed to sit around and do a 12-hour self-reflection. And don't even think about cheating — they've got guards patrolling the streets to make sure you are super quiet and super hungry! Happy New Year and please shut up, thanks.

World Toilet Day

Created by the World Toilet Association, World Toilet Day (Nov. 19) honors (get ready for this one): toilets. Which seems a bit odd, but we basically have toilets to thank for ending widespread diseases spread by human waste. The day is meant to raise awareness about improving sanitation facilities worldwide.

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The legacy of Phil Jasner lives, breathes in book by his son Andy

Andy Jasner finds the perfect way to honor his father, legendary Hall of Fame Sixers sports writer Phil Jasner, in his new book, "On the Case."

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Andy Jasner's latest work is mostly research, and team work, two things his father, Sixers beat writer, NBA hall of famer and jack of all trades features writer Phil Jasner loved.

Andy and Metro chatted about what it took to piece together his favorite works from his dad, and getting heartfelt contributions from Philly greats Allen Iverson, Charles Barkley, Paul Westhead, Billy Cunningham, Merrill Reese and more.

What was it like getting this together?

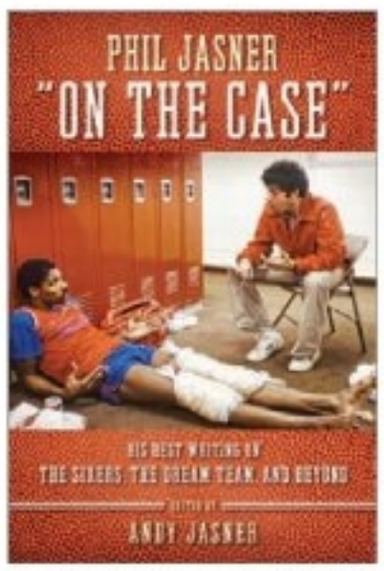
"It was about a four-year project that started after my third daughter was born. She came into this world, after the of the sadness of losing my dad, here comes Leah Paige Jasner, (the P is for Phil). I said 'How can I keep my dad's legacy going?' So I got the idea and I started thinking about it and I started thinking, 'well, a book that I write is going to be meaningless so I want it to be his work.' I started thinking and got the idea to put together his greatest works together.

"It was an arduous task but a true labor of love. I went through thousands of articles through old albums that my grandmother put together, through things that I had with help from archives from various folks at the Daily News. The first chapter went all the way back to 1962. I wanted people to know he was not only associated with the Sixers. There was a lot of a body of work from well before that — I got a lot of comments from people about the soccer chapter. The 1973 Atoms, I was a ball boy for that.

You are pretty lucky to have this incredible record of your dad's work. A lot of people don't have records and memories like this to be able to look back at this way.

"It was very therapeutic on my part. I could have had more, but I didn't want it to be so overwhelming that I lost people. Merrill Reese and Phil Jasner weren't just colleagues they were childhood friends who threw the football around in elementary school and junior high. It starts you on a path from there and takes you through a lifetime of incredible memories. It wasn't just game stories, it was [Julius Erving's visit to] Sesame Street and proving that Doc could actually fly by talking to a physicist. That story came out in 1986 and the last two lines — and I know dad because he meant it — ' will always believe Doc could fly and that's what I will tell my grandkids someday.' It was fast forward to the future when I typed that out. It was kind of crazy.

"Losing him so tragically and unexpected at the end too, this was another reason to give the readers a flashback. He's been gone almost seven years, people remember him like it was yesterday that's a Philadelphia thing I can't explain. It's not like that in other places. You have the fraternity here we get from our sporting work. When we go other places it's really different there."



What did you learn about him that you didn't know?

"Kids think they know their parents to the most minute detail but that's not true. It was kind of exciting and exhilarating and a little big eerie at the same time. It was all part of the therapeutic process of this project. It was just special all the way around. There were points when I didn't think I would finish. I typed in every word myself, going back and reliving it was a very cool. I could feel the passion in him typing a story in 1976, now in 2017, with having that rush.

"I didn't want anyone else to of that. I had some archive help with patches I couldn't find but I did every word, no stenographer hired, I did the entire book myself. It came out the exact way I wanted it to."

76ers hall of famer Allen Iverson had a special relationship with Phil Jasner. GETTY IMAGES

How did it go, putting together those section introductions?

"There were a lot of bleeps in there it, was just raw. That was the way Allen [Iverson] was. And Charles [Barkley] too, he told that story and I had to edit some bleeps out too.

"It was a combination of respect, admiration and professionalism that they trusted him. Paul Westhead told me 'there was this crazy looking dude with thick curly locks who had a crazy look on his face but he did his homework and I answered this questions because he worked hard on them.' They trusted him and that trust never waned."

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS: WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN BIG 5

Temple Lady Owls – The Lady Owls are off to a 1-1 start to a season, dropping an 84-67 decision to Rutgers on Monday, but don't sleep on this team. Led by senior guard Alliya Butts, who averaged 15.5 points per game last season, the Lady Owls look to make it back to the NCAA Tournament this season after punching their ticket with a 24-8, 13-3 record a year ago.

Villanova Wildcats – The Wildcat women (1-0) have a lot riding on their sophomores this season after reaching the NIT Semifinals a season ago. Leading the group is guard Kelly Jekot.

Jekot, a two-time Gatorade Player of the Year in Pennsylvania, came to the Wildcats as a five-star recruit last season. Her hype was grounded to some extent as she finished the year with just 6.1 points and 3.5 rebounds, but she's looking to make strides forward in her second season. She finished with 10 points and seven rebounds in the Wildcats' 71-53 win over Hartford on Friday.

St. Joseph's Hawks – The Hawks (1-0) reached the NIT in their 2016-17 campaign, but are poised to make a trip to the Big Dance this time around. In their first outing on Sunday against Niagra, they showed just how potent their offense is capable of being in a 93-69 victory. Their 93 points was a program record to open the season as junior Alyssa Monaghan led the way with a career-best 23 points. Finishing 12-4 in the Atlantic 10 Conference last season, the Hawks are hoping to find better results in their non-conference slate, where they were just 5-11.

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Temple basketball preview: A loaded freshman class will star for the Owls

The Owls start the new college basketball season in Charleston.

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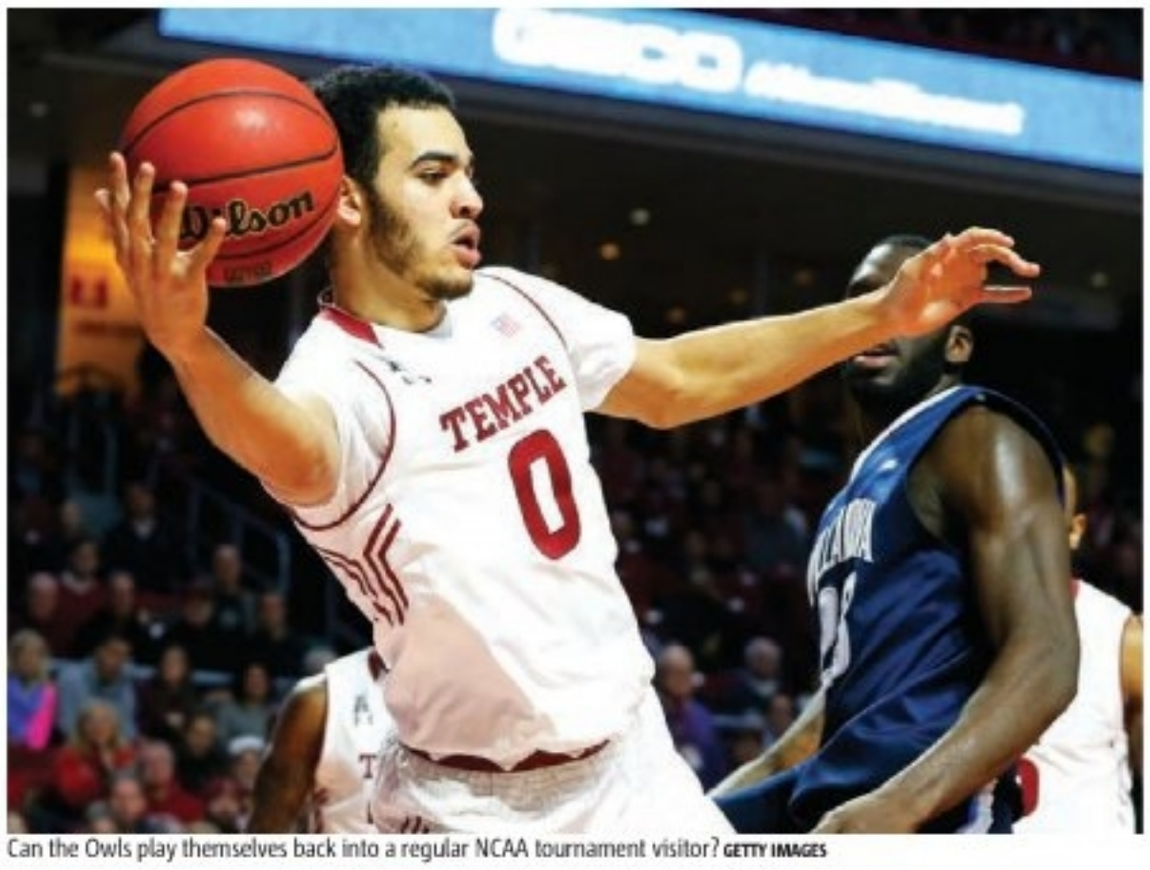
Can the Owls play themselves back into a regular NCAA tournament visitor? GETTY IMAGES

One of the biggest gripes about Fran Dunphy's otherwise brilliant coaching career at Temple University has been his ability to recruit talent.

Although he's amassed a 230-136 (62.8 percent) winning percentage in his 11-year coaching career with the Owls, many have questioned his ability to draw the type of talent that could make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament out to North Broad.

His 2017-18 recruiting class may finally silence his critics.

Forwards De'Vondre Perry, J.P. Moorman II and Justyn Hamilton along with guard Nate Pierre-Louis make up the Owls' talented freshman class. They'll be joining an already deep Temple team that is driven to make some noise this season, which gets underway Thursday against Old Dominion (2-0) in the Charleston Classic.

"All four of them have come in and been ready to go right from the start and it has been exciting," Dunphy said of the freshmen. "The competitiveness at practice has risen exponentially and it has been great."

The Owls, who finished 17-17, 7-11 last season, are returning four of their top five leading scorers from a year ago in Shizz Alston Jr. (13.9 PPG), Obi Enechionyia (13.1 PPG), Quinton Rose (9.7 PPG) and Alani Moore II (6.5 PPG).

Josh Brown, who averaged 8.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and 4.9 assists in the Owls' 2015-16 campaign, was sidelined as a medical redshirt for the majority of last season while recovering from an Achilles injury. The team hopes to have him at full strength this season at point guard and that he can take control of the Owls' offense like he has done in the past.

"I feel good and it was just good to be out there again, fans out there cheering on us," Brown said after Temple's 70-60 exhibition win against Jefferson. "There was a lot of electricity, I was a little anxious and it was just a good dress rehearsal for us."

The Owls will have a tough task in their opener, facing an Old Dominion defense that has limited their opponents to just 53.5 points per game, which ranks 19th in the country.

"They're an outstanding defensive team who probably want to keep the possessions low during the course of the game," Dunphy said. "We'll have our hands full. They're a veteran team that know what they're doing."

Temple's game against the Monarchs will air at 1:30 p.m. on ESPN3.

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FANTASY ADVICE: HIGH ON BURKHEAD, LOW ON BRYANT

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Rex Burkhead has been coming on strong for the Patriots. GETTY IMAGES

Fantasy football advice ahead of Week 11.

Flexy Rexy

With Mike Gillislee firmly entrenched on Bill Belichick's bench in New England, the freshly-healthy Rex Burkhead made an impact for the Patriots in Week 10. He turned 10 carries into 36 yards on the ground and added in three catches for 27 more yards and a score, proving how capable he is as a dual-threat back. While it's hard to believe that Belichick would ever truly feature one running back, Burkhead has a much better shot at fantasy production every week given the fact that he is so effective both on the ground and through the air. While James White is still in the mix as a pass-catching option, Tom Brady uses his running backs so effectively and often that it's very possible for multiple backs to carry fantasy value. Burkhead should be a top waiver claim this week, and will carry high-end flex value going forward, with the potential for much more if he is given more opportunities on the ground.

No. 1 Bear

Recently acquired from the Chargers in late October, Dontrelle Inman made a big impact in his first active game for the Chicago Bears. Inman tied for the team lead in targets with eight, and parlayed those into 88 yards on six catches in Week 10. Both of those stats led the team, and it appears that Inman will be a cog in the offense moving forward.

Down on Dez

Dez Bryant is a WR1 in name only these days, although most casual fantasy players likely wouldn't recognize that. Despite being the best wide receiver on one of the best offenses over the last two years, Bryant has settled into a role as an every-week WR2. He simply doesn't have the multi-touchdown upside he has had in years past, mostly due to the fact that the Cowboys live and die with their run game.

Jay Ajayi could top Eagles' running backs in touches against Dallas. GETTY IMAGES

Eagles' Ajayi could ascend to No. 1 role

Just a few days after the Eagles traded a fourth-round pick to the Dolphins for Jay Ajayi, the 24-year-old running back led the team in rushing in a blowout win against the Broncos.

He had eight carries for 77 yards and a big touchdown — his first of the year — but it wasn't supposed to be that way.

The plan was to dip his feet in the water to get him some action in the Eagles scheme, and eventually slide him into the running back rotation behind LeGarrette Blount.

"We'll just continue to grow his package," Pederson told the media Wednesday, "and grow the amount of plays and everything that he's doing with our offense and continue to keep him coming."

Blount is currently the leader in the clubhouse for rushing, and the Eagles seem eager to continue to use their rotation that also boasts Corey Clement, Wendell Smallwood and Kenjon Barner.

Smallwood is likely the odd man out Sunday in Dallas, and Barner is the Eagles' primary returner. That means carries will be split between Clement, Blount and Ajayi.

"He's come in here and he's proven to pick up our system," Pederson said. "He's a smart guy. We saw it the first couple of days he was here and it carried over into the game against the Broncos. And we'll just keep increasing his role just a little bit."

The week away helped indoctinate Ajayi into the Eagles system, making it perfect timing for the former Fins' star to shine this week against a Cowboys team expected to be without run-stuffing linebacker Sean Lee in Week 11.

"It slowed down," Pederson said reflecting on the week off. "A little more teaching and he can go back and even watch the Denver game and take personally himself, to have some takeaways from that game. Again, this is a veteran player who has played and understands football." EVAN MACY

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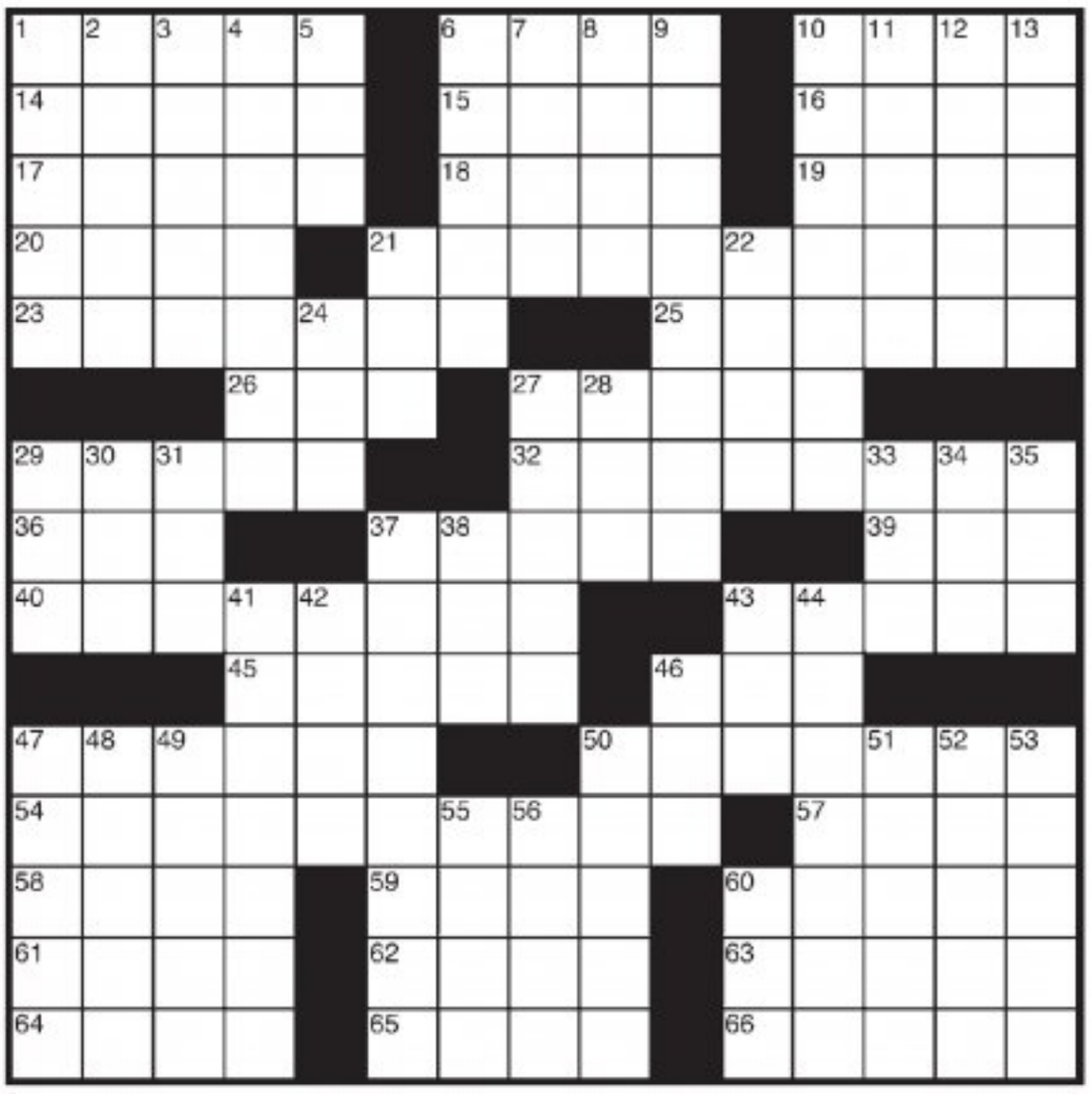
metro.us/games

metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Trounces
6 October's stone
10 Pet name
14 Wild West show
15 Wan
16 Shaft
17 Spouse's brother (hyph.)
18 Keyboarding error
19 Disguise
20 Sock tips
21 Used incorrect letters
23 Unpredictable
25 Non-earthlings
26 Put the kibosh on
27 Open-air lobbies
29 Mount the soapbox
32 Trophy stand
36 Move jauntily
37 June honorees
39 By way of
40 Kind of design
43 Spill hot coffee on
45 Metal fastener
46 Big snake
47 Seven-veil dancer
50 From Maine
54 Lustrous in appearance
57 Quartet minus one
58 Ms. Morrison
59 Bireme movers
60 Difficult situations
61 Service ender
62 Herr's wife
63 Light brown
64 Pushed the doorbell
65 Wine and dine
66 Belief

Down
1 Jot down
2 Hold in high regard
3 Goof-off
4 Serf
5 Piglet's mother
6 Eye nerve
7 Picks up the check
8 Mont Blanc's range
9 Spotted cats
10 Showy flowers
11 Drive out
12 Pilgrim suitor
13 Sax mouthpieces
21 Stir
22 Nadelman or Ducommun
24 Standoff
27 By itself
28 Media mogul -- Turner
29 Kyoto sash
30 Jimmy's successor
31 Suitable
33 Water-power org.
34 Feel awful
35 Aberdeen kid
37 Emits (2 wds.)
38 Unhatched fish
41 Blowing away
42 Coating of frost
43 "Titanic" message
44 More snide
46 Flying fox
47 Raga instrument
48 Bakery lure
49 Of flax
50 Come next
51 Sergeant Bilko
52 Long, narrow hilltop
53 Bottle- -- dolphin
55 Feel concern
56 Was, to Ovid
60 U.K. broadcaster



metro.us/sudoku

easy

	4	6				1	3	
		5		8	6		9	
3			9				5	6
	5						6	7
				5				
8	6						2	
6	2				8			3
	8		5	4		6		
	3	4				8	7	

hard

6				1				
		3	7					5
4	2			5				1
		4			7	6	8	
7	8						4	3
	6	9	8			5		
3				7			5	6
9					5	4		
				3				9

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries A change of location will be good for you. Look for a space that will bring back your enthusiasm and offer amenities that will make your life more comfortable.

Taurus Taking a business trip or collaborating with someone who has something to offer will point you in a new direction. The changes you make will speak volumes.

Gemini Participation will be in your best interest. Engage in physical challenges that will give you the chance to work in conjunction with people just as active and vibrant as you.

Cancer Plan to attend a networking function or do something fun with youngsters or loved ones. Taking up a new hobby will lead to interesting opportunities.

Leo Making alterations to how or where you live will require your undivided attention and creative input. Be careful not to let excessive individuals lead to your downfall.

Virgo Take your responsibilities seriously. Looking after a relative will be rewarding. Your kindness will result in an unexpected gesture that will help you out financially.

Libra Refuse to let anyone frustrate you. Use your intelligence to get past any little glitch you face when dealing with someone you live or work with.

Scorpio Don't fear doing things differently. It's your uniqueness that makes others gravitate to your side. The passionate way you approach life will attract positive feedback.

Sagittarius Your kindness should be carefully made available to those worthy of them. Someone will take advantage of your enthusiasm and reluctance to admit defeat.

Capricorn You'll impress your peers with your unique suggestions and solutions. Take the initiative and turn your ideas and plans into something tangible.

Aquarius Emotional matters will escalate if you don't stay calm. Problems with schools, transportation companies, friends and relatives are best handled with reserve.

Pisces You'll receive something unexpected. Be ready to take advantage of a unique opportunity. Financial and personal gains are prevalent. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

F	A	D	S	■	D	A	Z	E	D	■	F	E	L	L
R	U	I	N	■	A	W	A	R	E	■	A	R	I	A
E	R	M	A	■	N	E	P	A	L	■	R	I	M	S
T	A	S	T	E	D	■	■	S	T	A	M	E	N	S
■	■	■	C	E	E	■	P	E	S	K	Y	■	■	■
■	S	C	H	O	L	A	R	■	■	R	A	C	E	S
P	A	H	■	■	I	R	E	■	C	O	R	R	A	L
O	M	I	C	R	O	N	■	B	A	N	D	A	G	E
O	B	T	A	I	N	■	C	U	M	■	■	N	E	W
H	A	S	P	S	■	■	C	R	E	E	P	E	R	■
■	■	■	A	E	G	I	S	■	M	A	R	■	■	■
F	U	L	C	R	U	M	■	■	B	R	I	B	E	S
A	L	A	I	■	S	P	A	C	E	■	Z	E	T	A
K	N	O	T	■	T	E	N	O	R	■	E	L	A	N
E	A	S	Y	■	S	L	A	N	T	■	D	A	T	E

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